

merely explanatory. As those of skill in the art will understand, other input and output languages could be used without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. The system also incorporates executable instructions to compile the object-oriented PostScript data to composite documents, elements and/or element groups which can then be displayed at graphical user interfaces for inspection and modification. Other instructions enable output in composite PostScript-type file formats and to Postscript devices. It will also be understood that while a preferred data structure is disclosed and described, other data structures are usable without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

A method and computer system are described for a single user and/or networked groupware system and work methods for digital asset/content management and content manipulation. It incorporates functionality to translate parse and tag native PostScript documents and documents converted to PostScript file format to a unique object-oriented PostScript data model, which incorporates Document Metadata, Document Properties, Document Property Values, Document Element Specific Metadata, Document Element Properties and Document Element Property Values.

Once converted to the unique object-oriented data model, the system archives the data, provides software and methods for document and element display to a user interface for document and element modification and adds additional metadata to document and element components. These added components enable document and element searching, version management. Output can be provided in the form of PostScript-type documents. The output files can be directed to PostScript compatible devices.

The system and methods also provide, capability by other executable instructions to efficiently and/or automatically search, compare and reconcile its object-oriented PostScript data as well as to store, distribute, create and edit its object-oriented PostScript data and/or data groups, which are referred to herein as documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties and element property values.

The system translates and imports non-object oriented document file formats to a preselected standard, which could be PostScript-type code, from which, it is parsed and tagged to an object oriented PostScript data model. The model makes distinctions between documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values.

5           The system translates object oriented documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values to composite documents and/or elements to graphic arts industry standard file formats such as PostScript and PDF. The system compares documents, 10          document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values upon import and provides users with notification of document and/or element redundancies and provides user interfaces and tools for examining and choosing the elimination of document and document element redundancies. The system compares documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values upon import and, based on pre-determined selections made in provided user interfaces and tools, automatically eliminates document and element redundancies.

15          The system provides user interfaces and tools that allow users to establish rules for imported documents and/or elements involving combinations of documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values.

20          The system also has a capability to compare documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values upon import. It also provides users with notification of document and/or element non-compliance with user established rules and provides user interfaces and tools for examining and choosing the reconciliation of documents and elements to user established rules. The system also compares documents, document properties, document property values and elements, element properties, element property values upon import. Based on pre-determined selections made in 25          user interfaces and tools, the system automatically reconciles documents and/or elements so as to comply with user established rules.

The system provides user interfaces and tools, which enable users to concurrently apply text and graphic edits to multiple common and/or similar, non-matching, documents and elements in the archive. The system incorporates user interfaces and tools, which allow users to concurrently effect text and graphic edits in similar, non-matching, document elements, in the archive by editing a single document .

5                   The system includes user interfaces and tools, which allow users to create new documents and/or elements based on existing documents and/or elements. The system also incorporates user interfaces and tools, which enable remote workflow participants to upload documents, download documents, initiate requests for document project work, access project status reports and execute text edits to documents and/or elements through their Internet browsers.

10                  The system incorporates user interfaces and tools, which allow user/administrators to automatically track the nature of all final user and remote workflow participant edits or modifications executed on archived documents and elements. It also incorporates user interfaces and tools for accessing reports and charts of this tracking information. The system incorporates user interfaces and tools, which allow for the recording of any user/administrator designated number of document versions. It is also possible to retain information about version differences such as information identifying the version's originator, information about the computer and network of the version originator and information about the user/administrator defined execution type or workflow step associated with the version as well as, in the case of edits or modifications made to archived documents or document components, the nature of the edits or modifications made.

15                  The data model, on which the invention's standard document file format parsing takes place, is based on making distinctions between Document Specific Data and Metadata, Document Properties, Document Property Values, Element Properties and Element Property Values. To these distinctions separate data-sets are established for Archived Document and Element Metadata, Document Construction 20                  Metadata and Element Specific Metadata, to aid in searching the archive for